Drought relief measures in Rajasthan

1315. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the acute famine condition in some parts of Rajasthan as has been reported in the Statesman of 13th February, 1986; and

(b) if so, what relief measures are being taking by the Central Government in those areas of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 98.65 crores during the current year to assist the State Government of Rajasthan to carry out relief measures in the drought affected areas.

Accident in the Bokaro Steel Plant

1316. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 10 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February, 1986 regarding explosion in Bokaro Steel Plant and State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the convertor No. 2 had an explosion on 25th November, 1985 similar to that which took place on January 15, 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that no precautionary measures were taken thereafter by the management;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into these explosions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) A minor explosion had taken place in Converter No. I of Steel Melting Shop II on November 18, 1985 (not on November 25, 1985). No one was injured. This accident took place while oprational maintenance work was being carried out while the accident on January 15, 1986 took place while the Converter No. 2 was in actual operation. The management always seeks to take all precautionary measures to avoid occurrence recurrence of such incidents.

(c) and (d) A Committee was constituted by the Plant management to enquire into the causes of the accident of November 18, 1985. Their finding was that the explosion was caused by water from leaking lance entering the Converter while operational maintenance was being done resulting in explosion due to mixing of water with hot slag. This explosion had caused damage to one side of the skirt and to the connected pipewark.

The Committee recommended that:

(1) Technological instructions as laid down for operation of converter should be strictly followed.

(2) Interlock of lance with converter should be modified to enable raising of the lance without bringing the converter to vertical position.

The Plant management has already taken action on the recommendations of the Committee.

The High Power Enquiry Committee constituted by Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited to consider the report of the enquiry Committee appointed by the plant to enquire into the causes of the accident which took place in Converter No. 2 of Steel Melting Shop No. 2 on January 15, 1986 has yet submitted its report.